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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.
FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.

801-809 G St. N.W., Washington, D. C

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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VOL. 2. NO. 46 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1913. WHOLE NO. 98

FIREMEN READY TO STRIKE

New York, Feb. 15.—The threatened strike of 34,000 firemen on the fifty-four railroads east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio has been placed in the hands of the government officials to avert by mediation, if possible. President Carter, of the Firemen, has informed Judge Knapp of the Commerce Court, and the National Bureau of Labor, that he desires these forces to mediate in the crisis which has arisen. The chairman of the conference committee of railroad managers announced that the railroads would accept the services of Judge Knapp and Acting Commissioner Hanger. President Carter repeated his offer to arbitrate under the Erdman act, before a board of three men. The managers of the railroads agreed that the firemen were entitled to an increase in pay—not as much as they demanded, however—but have insisted on the arbitration going before a committee of seven, claiming it unfair to leave the decision of so far-reaching a matter to the odd man in a board of three. The firemen have asserted they would never arbitrate except under the Erdman act. At the meeting held on February 11, this status of affairs continued the deadlock. "The public will believe you forced us into a strike to accomplish one if not three purposes," was President Carter's statement to the managers. Enumerating these purposes he continued: "First, to teach the American people that the time has come when the railroads must have an increased freight rate, and it requires a strike to get it. Second, the railroads have set out with the determination of securing compulsory arbitration under the guise of a wage commission, under the Federal law, which have the right to raise wages 10 cents and raise the freight rates 20 cents. It is the purpose of the people who own the railroads to put the fear of God in Woodrow Wilson's heart to celebrate his inauguration with the biggest strike this country has ever had."

WEST VIRGINIA MINERS.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 15.—Great excitement prevails in the Paint and Cabin Creek mining sections. The story of the indignities suffered by the coal miners of this section is a long and harrowing tale. They have been denied the right to organize, have been exploited to the last degree of endurance, arrested on trivial charges and sentenced to prison by a military commission, until a point has been reached where there appears, if statements are to be given any credence, that the laws of the State have been completely abrogated in favor of the mining corporations. It is difficult to get accurate news, as it only filters out incidentally, the mining corporations having control of the local governments and news being strictly censored, and the region in which the difficulty is on being exceedingly difficult to penetrate. The United Mine Workers, however, propose to continue their contest until the right of the miners to organize will be an accomplished fact.

WAGE ORDER RESCINDED.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Some time ago the wage board at the naval torpedo station, located at Newport, R. I., submitted a new wage scale containing numerous changes. The workmen at the torpedo station were formerly divided into four classes, with a $2.56 per diem minimum. The wage board added four other classes and substantially reduced the minimum. This plan, had it been carried into effect, would have so specialized the work in the station as to have created eight classes of specialists. The action of the wage board was finally approved by the department, but through the activity of the machinists and other trades involved, the case was reopened and the action of the wage board in creating four new classes and reducing the minimum has been rescinded. At one time this controversy assumed a serious phase, but through the influence of the Bureau of Labor, at the instance of the trades involved, the adjustment mentioned was arrived at.

FAVORS GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The Postmaster General, in his annual report, which has just been transmitted to Congress, again recommends that the telegraph lines of the United States should be taken over by the government and operated in connection with the postal service. That part of his report which refers to the telegraph lines, in part, is as follows:

"In the last annual report the opinion was expressed that telegraph lines in the United States should be made a part of the postal system and operated in conjunction with the mail service. It is believed that under proper management such a consolidation would result in important economies and permit adoption of lower telegraph rates. Now that a postal savings system has been established and a parcel post provided for, there would seem to be no better opportunity for the profitable extension of our postal business than through the adoption of a government telegraph system."

ORGANIZING STEEL WORKERS.

Cleveland, Feb. 15.—The Cleveland Federation of Labor, with the assistance of organizers of the American Federation of Labor, is actively at work endeavoring to interest the 100,000 steel workers in and around Cleveland. A large amount of literature printed in the various foreign languages has been received from headquarters, and the distribution among the workmen is now going on. There are nine steel mills in this city, and the conditions under which they labor are anything but good. With the general unrest which is prevailing, the outlook is bright to secure a large organization.

IRON MINERS STRIKE.

Mineville, N. Y., Feb. 15.—The miners of iron ore in this section are on strike for a raise in wages and better working conditions. Negotiations have been in progress for many months for the purpose of securing a redress of the workmen's grievances, but without avail, and as a last resort a strike is in progress. The management of the companies involved are pursuing the usual tactics, the miners being subjected to the brutality of mine guards, evicted from their homes, women assaulted, and the programme generally adopted by companies of this character is being carried out. These miners are affiliated direct with the American Federation of Labor and are receiving strike benefits. A large number of men, not members of the union, have made common cause with the union men and an appeal is to be sent out for assistance in order to render aid to those who require it.

FAVORS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS.

Dover, Del., Feb. 15.—The House of Representatives has passed a bill, proposing an initiative and referendum amendment to the Constitution, by a vote of 23 to 8.

STEEL WORKERS ORGANIZED

Chicago, Feb. 15.—Two organizations of iron and steel workers have been formed at Chicago Heights, Ill., and one in Indiana Harbor, Ind. The organizers for the A. F. of L. report that the meetings at which these organizations were formed were large and enthusiastic. The campaign inaugurated by the American Federation of Labor to organize the steel workers of the entire country is bringing good results. Over two million pieces of literature, printed in thirteen different languages, have been distributed and has had a most wonderful effect in arousing the steel workers from their apathetic state. This literature is eagerly sought and the headquarters of the Federation is preparing and sending out immense volumes of this literature to not only the steel workers, but to other workers, printed in the various languages, presenting in concrete and brief form the story of the labor unions. Reports from A. F. of L. organizers, both general and volunteer, from every part of the country, indicate that there is a splendid growing sentiment in favor of organization. An increase in wages, given by the steel trust to its employes, which was to take effect February 1, for the purpose of preventing organization, has not brought about the results that the steel corporation desired. In fact, it has had the opposite influence, in that the steel workers begin to realize that the organizing plan of the American Federation of Labor is responsible for the management of the steel companies increasing their wages. As a matter of fact, this organizing campaign is having a marked influence on all other crafts and will be continued vigorously and without cessation during the entire year.

PIRATING THE UNION LABEL.

Lansing, Mich., Feb. 15.—A committee of the House of Representatives has been investigating the Marquette prison. In discussing the conditions which surround this penal institution, one member of the committee made this statement: "I was informed that the man who has the overall contract takes the goods from the prison and relabels them with the union label. This is something over which the State exercises no control." From this statement it cannot be determined what union label is used, but it is in line with the story recently printed in the News letter from Missouri. In the latter State a shoe manufacturing firm has a prison contract, and the shoes are labeled "Made in Chicago." The trade unions in the various States are fighting contract prison labor, and are making considerable headway, but pirating of the union label is still continued by some manufacturers who desire to cover up the fact that the merchandise which they vend is manufactured by convicts.

CUTTING "MELONS."

New York, Feb. 15.—More than $6,000,000 is to be distributed among the holders of the common stock of the American Tobacco Company, from the 15 per cent extra dividend just declared. Like the $40,000,000 "melon" divided recently by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, this extra dividend results from the Supreme Court decree dissolving the old corporation. The declaring of this extra dividend by the Tobacco Corporation makes a total of $14,000,000 in extra dividends received by the stockholders since the old American Tobacco Company was dissolved. The company also declared a quarterly dividend of 5 per cent, which places the common stock on a 20 per cent annual basis, an increase of 2 1-2 per cent quarterly. "It pays to be dissolved."

MORE MONEY FOR CARPENTERS.

Sioux City, Iowa, Feb. 15.—A new agreement between the Master Builders' Association and the Carpenters' Union has been ratified and signed. The new agreement is for two years, beginning May 1 next. The eight-hour day is one of the improvements, and all differences arising in the future will be settled by arbitration. The new wage scale is 47½ cents per hour up to September 15, this year, and 50 cents per hour thereafter during the life of the agreement. The present scale is 45 cents per hour. Like all organizations, the Sioux City carpenters have made history, and in maintaining their union benefits have been on the increase. The carpenters in this city in 1902 were working for $1.75 and $2 per day of ten hours. The scale which will become effective this year therefore shows an advance in wages in ten years of 100 per cent and the reduction of hours of two per day. It is the "old, old story."

TO HONOR WILSON.

Washington, Feb. 15.—A resolution to appoint a committee to make arrangements for a complimentary dinner, to be given on March 1 to Congressman Wilson, chairman of the House Labor Committee, was adopted by the Washington Central Labor Union recently. Congressman Wilson is highly esteemed by the unionists of the Capital city, as well as by all unionists throughout the country, and the dinner to be given is in the nature of a tribute to his sterling integrity and ability in dealing with labor problems during his incumbency as chairman of one of the important committees of Congress.

PASS LABOR MEASURE.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 15.—The Davis resolution, proposing an amendment to the constitution to give municipalities authority to regulate the hours, wages, and conditions of labor on public works, has passed the House of Representatives without a dissenting vote. Labor organizations are backing the bill, as the Supreme Court has decided that municipalities do not have such power under existing laws.

NEW FEDERATION FORMED.

Cumberland, Md., Feb. 15.—The Western Maryland Railway System Federation, composed of machinists, boilermakers, blacksmiths, and carmen, has been perfected. The officers of this system federation are strong, influential, and active men, which presages that good results will follow the forming of this railroad federation.

RAILROAD MEN GET INCREASE.

Butler, Pa., Feb. 15.—All shop and track employes of the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad, owned by the United States Steel Corporation, have been granted an increase in wages. The shopmen get a raise of 2 1-2 cents an hour, and the trackmen get an advance of 20 cents a day. Notices of an increase for the men in other departments are anticipated.

BAN ON CHINKS AND JAPS.

Winnipeg, Feb. 15.—A bill prohibiting the employment of white women or girls in any place of business owned or managed by Chinese or Japanese has been introduced in the Legislature by the government of Manitoba.

PUTS EMPLOYERS UP A TREE

Washington, Feb. 15.—The employers of labor in Great Britain who take more interest in fighting unions than transacting business, have been treated to a surprise in the operation of the new workmen's compensation act, which has just gone into effect. Under this law certain courts are empowered with the authority to determine the amount of compensation to be paid by the employers and compensation is based upon the average earning power of the applicant. During the dock strike a casual laborer was employed as a strike-breaker and was paid a wage for performing that delectable function far in excess of the prevailing rate of wages. This particular workman was the victim of an accident and the judge, in rendering his decision as to the amount of compensation to which the injured employe was entitled to, based his award upon the wages received as a strike-breaker. The judge, while holding that although there could not be a grade of strike-breakers, yet the fact was that the applicant was a strike-breaker and that was his grade, and assessed his average weekly earnings at £1-6s-10d, and awarded him half that amount during incapacity. The average earnings of a casual dock laborer are about 17s or 18s a week. An appeal has been taken from the award, the employers insisting that the computation was arrived at upon an unfair basis, owing to the fact that the workman was employed during an abnormal period. Judgement in the appeal case has been reserved, but it is hoped that the award of the judge will stand and compel the employers of labor who employ strike-breakers to pay the orchestra for the music which it produces.

INCREASE ON THE WABASH.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 15.—The conference of the shop committees and the officers of the Wabash Railroad Company has finally resulted in a concession on the part of the officials to the employes. An increase of 2 cents an hour has been granted, and also an agreement to try out the eight-hour work day during the coming year. If the eight-hour plan proves a success, it is stated that it will be made permanent. It is also agreed that all overtime shall be equally divided among the members of the federated crafts, so that it will be distribued equally. This increase will affect a large number of men employed in Springfield and Decatur. While the rate of pay has been 36 cents in the metal trades, the increase will barely put the wage agreements on an equal basis with other roads in this territory, but it is hoped that further concessions can be gained in the future which will bring the rate up to a point equal to the prevailing rate of other roads in this portion of the country.

UNION BUSTER BUTTING IN.

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 15.—The local Typographical Union of this city secured a new scale, which became effective January 1. The scale was one which had been obtained as a result of arbitration. Immediately upon the terms of settlement having been arrived at and the contract signed, the local branch of the Manufacturers' Association, known as the Des Moines Business Men's League, issued a ukase to the employing printers that all contracts be immediately abrogated and that the printing offices be conducted in the future as open shops, nine hours a day and the union label thrown out. Of course, the Manufacturers' Association claims all kinds of inconsistencies on the part of union labor and berates it for strikes and other activities, but in this particular instance a settlement was reached in an amicable manner and the terms were mutually agreed to. The action of the Manufacturers' Association emphasizes its real attitude. The Typographical Union is not afraid of the Manufacturers' Association and will not give any attention to the utterances of a few whilom union busters.

A BRICKLAYERS' SCHOOL.

Minneapolis, Feb. 15.—The bricklayers of this city, enthusiastic over vocational education, not to be behind other building trades crafts, have started a night school at the Central High School Building, and after an existence of two weeks have a membership of nearly thirty. The classes convene two nights each week and are under the supervision of a journeyman bricklayer. The course includes plan reading, estimating, and other technical questions allied to the bricklaying trade. It is asserted that this is the first night school that the bricklayers of this country have ever inaugurated. But with the instant success which has been achieved it is probable that schools of this character will be commenced in other sections of the country.

LABOR'S MEMORIAL DAY.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Labor's Memorial Day was formerly designated as the second Sunday in May. At the Atlanta convention of the American Federation of Labor a resolution was introduced by the delegate from the Central Labor Union of Lancaster, Pa., changing the date of Labor's Memorial Day from the second Sunday in May to the fourth Sunday of the same month. This year, therefore, Labor's Memorial Day will fall on May 25. In numerous localities this day is appropriately observed and a larger number of unions are each year being added to those who formerly observed this day.

BOOKBINDERS ON STRIKE.

Oklahoma City, Feb. 15.—The bookbinders in this city are on strike in four of the largest printing establishments. Verbal agreements have been made by four other firms, pending the settlement, and the men are still working. The union is demanding $25 a week for foremen, $21 for journeymen, and $9 a week for women. The raise is $2.50 for foreman, $1.50 for journeymen, and $1 for the lady members. The Allied Printing Trades Council has taken action, removing the union label from the struck shops.

NEWSPAPER SCALE INCREASED.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 15.—By the terms of an agreement entered into recently between representatives of the Typographical Union and the managers of the local daily papers, the Star, Times, Post, and Journal, a flat scale of $28.50 went into effect, beginning February 1, and will continue for three years. Prior to the adoption of this agreement the scale was $27.

NEW TRANSPORT UNION.

Baltimore, Feb. 15.—Following closely upon the affiliation of two of the local transport workers' organizations with the International Longshoremen, a new local has been organized. This new local consists mainly of Polish stevedores. Application for a charter from the International Longshoremen's Association already has been made, and the outlook is for a strong and influential union.

A. P. MEN GET AN ADVANCE

Chicago, Feb. 15.—The Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America, by an extended campaign among the telegraphers employed by the Associated Press, has forced the association into attempting to forestall further agitation for increases in wages and better conditions by advancing its wage scale to conform to that of the United Press, the National News Association, and the International News Service, where union conditions prevail. The telegraphers employed by the Associated Press recently voted in favor of sending a committee to New York to present their grievances to the management. The demands included a 20 per cent increase in the minimum wage of $24 per week, with a corresponding increase for all those receiving more than the sum stated. The increases made effective by the association on February 1 provide for an increase approximating 15 per cent, thus establishing $23 per week as the minimum wage, with a maximum of $33 per week in New York and Chicago. Practically all points east of the Missouri River and in the South, share in the adjustment. It is also understood that another referendum will soon be taken by the Associated Press telegraphers to ascertain whether their other demands shall be pressed at this time.

FORWARD FOR SHOEMAKERS.

Worcester, Mass., Feb. 15.—About seventy-five delegates, representing the Boot and Shoe Workers' unions in the shoe centers of New England, held an organizing conference here recently. This meeting marks the opening of an extensive campaign to be conducted in Worcester, which those in charge confidently expect will be the means of materially strengthening the membership of the local unions. Recently the Boot and Shoe Workers' organization sent a representative to look over the field, and as a result arrangements were made to conduct an aggressive campaign here under the auspices of the New England organizing conference. This conference is composed of representatives of local unions throughout New England and was organized for the purpose of promoting organization in difficult fields and to boom the label of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union. Arrangements have all been completed to carry on this work indefinitely.

UNION PAINTERS WIN.

Cincinnati, Feb. 15.—About the first of January, following an effort upon the part of the Painters, Paperhangers and Decorators' Union to secure an amicable settlement in their demand for higher wages, a strike took place. About 1,500 craftsmen were involved, and a serious contest was expected. It was only a short time, however, until various contractors, recognizing the justice of the demands of the painters, began to capitulate and agree to pay the new scale of wages. In about thirty days the great majority of the employing painters had come to an agreement with the local union, and the situation at this time is practically cleared up. The advance in wages and betterment in conditions secured by the painters will be of vast benefit to those employed in the trade. The strike was unique in its masterly conduct, the solidarity of the painters, and the splendid success attained as the result of the strike.

PORCELAIN STRIKE SETTLED.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 15.—The strike of the Porcelain Workers' Union, of this city, which has been on for thirteen weeks, has been settled by a board of arbitration. The award reduces the work day to nine hours and increases the scale of wages both for day work and piece work. President Butterworth, of the Brick, Tile, and Terra Cotta Workers, together with Local Organizer T. A. Thompson, of the A. F. of L., and a committee of the local union, had charge of the contest, and were instrumental in bringing about a settlement of the controversy. The strike excited added interest in other organizations, and a benefit performance at the Broad Street Theater, arranged in behalf of the porcelain workers, was turned into a jollification and general meeting. Secretary Morrison made the principal address at the first meeting. Two other meetings followed the next day.

ELECTROTYPERS SETTLE.

Springfield, Ohio, Feb. 15.—The differences between the management of the Crowell Company and the Stereotypers and Electrotypers' Union recently resulted in a strike, which was of short duration, however. Representatives of the international union were sent for, and were successful in negotiating a settlement and the men returned to work. The difficulty was caused by a difference arising out of a proposed new wage scale. As a final conclusion of the matter a $2 increase for all the men involved, and a complete recognition of the union, resulted. The new wage scale gives helpers $23 a week, finishers $35, and molders $27. Sixteen men and four apprentices were involved in the strike. Every person working at this trade in the city is a member of the union, and every boy is apprenticed, thus making this organization 100 per cent strong.

BUCHANAN REBUKES EMPLOYER.

Washington, Feb. 15.—During the consideration of the Peters' eight-hour day bill for women wage-earners in the District of Columbia, Representative Buchanan, a member of the labor group, severely rebuked the manager of a local laundry in his efforts to direct the statements made by a witness before the committee. The manager was not satisfied to tell his own story, but endeavored to direct the answers to interrogatories propounded to employes who work in the local laundries. After the rebuke was administered the laundry manager subsided and attended strictly to his own business.

UNITY CONFERENCE CALLED.

New York, Feb. 15.—President Gompers has designated Friday, March 7, as the day upon which five representatives from each Central Body in New York and surrounding territory are to meet in conference. This meeting is pursuant to an action taken by the executive council for the purpose of promoting organizations among the unorganized and the creating of unity among the organized in the section referred to.

FEDERAL LABOR UNION RAISE.

La Salle, Ill., Feb. 15.—The Federal Labor Union of this city recently went before the City Council and asked for a raise in wages of 5 cents per hour. After a consideration of the demand the City Council granted the raise unanimously.

R. R. EARNINGS AND WAGES

Washington, Feb. 15.—During 1902, according to the Wall Street Journal, the gross earnings of the combined railway systems amounted to $1,960,743,636, while the wages paid to the employes amounted to $757,321,415, or 38.82 per cent of the gross earnings. The next highest point reached in this comparison was in 1908, when the gross earnings reached $2,457,821,131, while the wages of the railroad employes amounted to $1,035,437,528, or 42.13 per cent. From 1908 up to the beginning of the fiscal year 1912 there was a decrease in the percentages between gross earnings and total amount of wages. In 1912 the gross earnings of the railroads reached $2,826,690,225, while the employes received $1,243,677,738, or 42.95 per cent of the gross earnings. In the aggregate, this shows an increase in the percentage of the gross from 38.82 per cent to 42.96 per cent, or an increase of 4.13 per cent in nine years. This comparison, of course, includes all classes of labor employed upon the railways. The Wall Street Journal is emphatic in its statement that the time has come for a halt in the advancing wage scales. It might be suggested to the financial journal mentioned that if the bill now before Congress providing for a physical valuation of railroad properties becomes a law, a mighty interesting story can be written which will throw a sidelight upon the railroad business of this country which the railroad interests would not like to have told

MOLDERS MEAN BUSINESS.

Erie, Pa., Feb. 15.—The iron molders of this city are continuing their campaign for higher wages, shorter hours, and the right to organize, in such a vigorous manner as to attract widespread attention. When the campaign opened some weeks ago the foundry owners assumed that the iron molders would be unable to interest many of their craft in taking definite action to secure a readjustment of conditions, but a strike took place, and since the opening of the contest the employes of foundry after foundry have left their employment for the purpose of making the protest against unfair conditions effective. There are now seven large foundries involved, with the possibility that other concerns will be involved. While the usual injunction has been issued, it has not deterred the leaders in the contest to prosecute the strike in a vigorous manner. Conditions in this city among the molders have been bad for many years, and it has culminated in bringing the greater portion of the molders to a realization that the only effective way in which to secure a redress of their grievances is to act in unison with their co-laborers. The International Union has charge of the situation, and indications are that success will crown the efforts of the men who are standing solidly for a recognition of their right to receive more pay, shorter hours, and better working conditions.

BOXMAKERS AND SAWYERS.

Indianapolis, Feb. 15.—The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, through General Secretary Frank Duffy, has just issued a circular letter announcing that, according to the action of the recent convention, boxmakers and sawyers are to be admitted to membership in the United Brotherhood. When the amalgamation took place between the United Brotherhood and the Amalgamated Wood Workers a number of local unions of boxmakers received charters from the United Brotherhood, and since the amalgamation several applications have been received for charters for boxmakers and sawyers, but protests were filed by officers of local unions against the granting of charters upon the assumption that they were not eligible to membership. Since the jurisdiction has been conceded to the carpenters, and the recent convention accepting it, General President Huber instructed the local unions and organizers to that effect, and hereafter charters will be issued to the boxmakers and sawyers.

FEDERAL UNION WINS STRIKE.

Port Arthur, Tex., Feb. 15.—Laborers' Protective Union, No. 12,943, affiliated direct with the American Federation of Labor, which was on strike for about a week, has secured a settlement with a substantial increase in wages, recognition of the union, and other betterments. The strike took place from the fact that the management of the company operating on the water front, refused to enter into conference with the representatives of the Federal Union. After the short strike, noted above, a conference was held, and an agreement entered into which calls for time and one-half for overtime on Sundays, recognition of the union, establishment of shop rules, and an increase in wages up to 30 cents per hour in some departments, while all departments have received a substantial increase. The men have all returned to work.

COLORADO EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Denver, Feb. 15.—The state women's eight-hour law, covering mercantile, manufacturing and mechanical establishments is in operation. Already thirty-two mercantile institutions in this city have complied with the law and are now on an eight-hour basis. The Retail Association, which comprises some of the most important mercantile establishments, came to a decision to open the stores at 8:30 a. m. and close at 5:30 p. m., with one hour off for lunch. This law failed of passage in two or three legislative assemblies, but was finally placed on the ballots at the last election, and went to a vote of the people and was carried by approximately 80,000 majority. It is apprehended that there are some employers coming under the operation of this law who will refuse to accept its provisions, but the assurance is given by the State Labor Commissioner that all violators will be prosecuted.

PAINTERS GET RAISE.

Wheeling, W. Va., Feb. 15.—The union painters of this city have been successful in securing a 10-cent raise, the result of several conferences with the contracting painters. This advance brings their wages up to $3.76 per day of eight hours. The only other change made in the working agreement was the limiting of working bosses to two in a shop. This means that two members of a firm or company may be allowed to work in a union shop without being members of the union.

A BIG INCREASE.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 15.—Vice Grand President J. F. Riley, in a public statement, says that during the month of January the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks succeeded in increasing the wages of 2,500 of its members approximately $135,000 per year, or $54 per member per year. Another evidence that well-directed trade union effort succeeds in producing large dividends on investments as does to labor organizations.

ASSUMES RIGHT POSITION

Washington, Feb. 15.—In a recent issue of Collier's the following editorial note appears under the caption "Tell It's Another:" "There are certain phrases that the world is tired of hearing; certain excuses and smooth, condescending statements from the powers that be that are not as convincing as they once were. During the New York garment strike a contractor who sent out a large amount of his work in subcontracts made this statement: 'Our tenement-house workers can easily make $7 a week. If they worked in the shop, they could make $9 or $10, but they prefer to take their work to their homes, so that they can attend to their household duties and work whenever they please.' In the light of what we know of the difference that $2 or $3 a week makes to a tenement family, and the relation that home work bears to 'household duties,' such a remark causes laughter that is very like to wrath. In the same strike the New York Clothing Trade Association printed a large statement in the leading papers, beginning: 'And Unjustifiable Strike:' 'The clothing strike was started by a handful of self-seeking agitators and against the real interests of the workers.' Agitators may precipitate trouble, but they cannot make it. Tens of thousands of people—hard-working, much-worried—do not lay down their means of livelihood in the bitter weather of early January and face the most biting privation for an undetermined time unless there is a much better reason than 'a handful of self-seeking agitators.' All sympathy is due to those business men who are trying to work out the difficult problems that face them honestly and well, but this sort of assininity only antagonizes the public which it is intended to placate."

EMPLOYS ONLY UNION LABOR.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 15.—Last year the Board of Education awarded a contract to a St. Louis firm to install a complete heating plant in the high school. This contract was awarded with the distinct understanding that the work to be performed would be done exclusively by union men. It was afterward learned that the firm did not employ mechanics that were recognized by the Springfield Federation of Labor and the contract was abrogated and awarded to another firm. A suit was brought in the Federal Court against the Board of Education for $7,500 damages. At the trial of the case, recently held before a jury, a verdict was returned in favor of the Board of Education. While the motion for a new trial has been made and the trial judge has it under advisement, it is not believed that the new trial will be granted or case appealed. Organized labor of Springfield is represented on the Board of Education by R. A. Woodmansee, secretary of the Springfield Federation of Labor, who has served five years in this capacity. Since the incumbency of Mr. Woodmansee on the board it has become the policy of the board not to allow any work done in and around the twenty school buildings, except by union men.

"RAPIDS" FORWARD MOVEMENT.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 15.—Organized labor's activities in the labor forward movement culminated recently with a large mass meeting for women workers. A number of speakers were present and delivered addresses. All the meetings held have had a splendid attendance despite the severity of the weather, and enthusiasm was apparent in every quarter. International organizers for the American Federation of Labor, Retail Clerks, Hotel and Restaurant Employes, Machinists, Iron Molders and Painters have scored splendid success. The Retail Clerks have reorganized in this city and have a larger local union than ever before. The Moving Picture Operators have also made good increases in membership and much activity is apparent among the cooks and waiters. Many of the religious bodies which have been apathetic in the past are now inquiring into the aims and objects of the American Federation of Labor. On the whole, the forward movement for Grand Rapids has been productive of tangible results and will have a salutory influence over the entire State.

METAL TRADES CAMPAIGN.

Erie, Pa., Feb. 15.—The campaign of organization, to be conducted by the Metal Trades Department, has opened in this city by the appearance on the scene of organizers for the Iron Molders, Patternmakers, Machinists, Metal Polishers, Blacksmiths, Sheet Metal Workers, Boilermakers, Plumbers, Electrical Workers, and Stationary Engineers. It will be remembered that the last convention of the Metal Trades Department perfected arrangements whereby a general organizing and forward movement was to be opened and continued during the present year, and Erie was the initial point selected to begin operations. Already it is noticeable that added interest is being taken in the affairs of the Metal Trades. Especial work is to be done for the purpose of interesting nonunion men. The organizers for the various organizations have already outlined a plan of action and the campaign of organization and education is rapidly getting under way.

"BOB" GLOCKLING DEAD.

Indianapolis, Feb. 15.—"Bob" Glockling, president of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, who for many months was a sufferer from an incurable disease, is dead. "Bob" was generally known throughout the labor world, and particularly so among the printing trades. He was an able and conscientious officer, and his ability and grasp of the trade union movement made him a valuable asset not only to the bookbinders, but to the general movement. His loss will be keenly felt by the organization of which he was president.

"GET-TOGETHER" MEETING.

Springfield, Ohio, Feb. 15.—On Wednesday night, February 12, one of the largest meetings ever held under the auspices of the Trades and Labor Assembly occurred. For nearly a month committees were at work making arrangements. A large number of nonunion men were present, and the meeting was a thorough success from every point of view.

EDUCATION BILL TO CONFERENCE

Washington, Feb. 15.—A conference committee has been appointed by both Houses of Congress on the industrial education bill, the Lever bill having passed the House and the Page bill having been substituted for the Lever bill in the Senate.

TEXTILE STRIKE ENDS.

Scranton, Pa., Feb. 15.—The strike of the 400 employes of the Scranton Textile Company for better wages has been ended by an agreement to arbitrate. The strike has been on for six weeks.

GIVES UP BUSTING UNIONS

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—Information has come to the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor that one old and erratic "Gripe Nuts" friend, C. W. Post, has decided to cease his open hostility to the organizations of labor. For a number of years he has spent large sums of money in advertising his very various brands of wares and incorporating in these ads fulminations against the labor organizations. As a matter of fact he put thousands of dollars into the pockets of union printers for which the Typographical Union was duly thankful. Then he conceived the brilliant idea of organizing a model labor union, which went by the euphonious name of the Trades and Workers' Association. When this skeleton was reared to view, with great acclaim, Post offered to amalgamate with the American Federation of Labor, but his offer was politely declined. In order that the Trades and Workers' Association might be provided with an appropriate headquarters, Post donated a spacious building (with a string on the donation), used formerly as a sanatorium. Unlike other unions, a real estate broker was made president of the Trades and Workers' Association, and "gripe nut" funds furnished for an organizing campaign. The real estate broker, however, did not prove to be a successful organizer, and finally, as the story goes, Post has taken back the sanatorium, disbanded the Trades and Workers' Association, which consisted of the real estate broker and Post, and has hung out a "to let" sign upon the former headquarters of the Trades and Workers' Association. It is not contrary to custom to end the chapter of a book or article by the words Selah or Amen, but in this instance we'll use the appropriate phrase—"There's a reason."

LOGANSPORT FORWARD.

Logansport, Ind., Feb. 15.—The organized labor movement in this city is showing signs of improvement. A committee was recently appointed from the central body to visit the various local unions in the city and request them to arrange for holding open meetings. The first in the city and request them to arrange union to respond was the Brewery Workers, then came the Painters and Cigarmakers, each of these unions holding largely attended meetings. Among those who visited the city for the purpose of assisting in the forward movement were organizers of the Bartenders, Boot and Shoe Workers, and Bakers, and their efforts have greatly assisted in giving the movement an impetus. Although the movement has just begun, one new union has been formed and two others are on the way. This local campaign of education and agitation has been the means of increasing the interest of the wage earners to the importance of maintaining activity in the trade unions. The revival will be continued and every effort made to secure a larger membership in all the unions, as well as organizing the unorganized.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 15.—Since the recent court decision has been rendered the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is receiving many acquisitions from the seceding electrical workers. There has recently been installed new local unions at Montgomery, Ala.; Newport News, Va.; La Salle, Ill.; Springfield, Mass.; Roanoke, Va.; Galveston, Tex.; Waterbury, Conn.; Kankakee, Ill.; Paraiso, Isthmus of Panama, and Schenectady, N. Y. All of these local unions, with the exception of three, were composed of members who formerly were with the secession movement. Many local unions which are still attached to the seceding organization have informed the general offices of the recognized International Brotherhood of their intention to affiliate with that organization, the direct cause of this action being the latest court decision in favor of the regular organization.

ELECTRICIANS' STRIKE SETTLED.

San Antonio, Tex., Feb. 15.—The strike of the electrical workers has come to an end. The local union of electrical workers demanded an increase of $1 per day, but were refused and a strike ensued. Subsequently the contractors made a compromise offer of 50 cents a day increase. Upon the consideration of this offer, it was finally accepted by the union, as it was decided that while it was believed that the demands of the union were just and the men entitled to a greater increase, yet a victory had been gained in securing one-half of their demands and the men returned to work.

MORE MONEY FOR KEY MEN.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—The Southern Railway telegraphers are to receive an advance of approximately 8 per cent in their wage scale through Judge Martin A. Knapp, of the Commerce Court, and G. W. Hanger, Acting Commissioner of Labor, mediators under the Erdman act. About 2,000 operators on the Southern Railway recently demanded an increase in wages and changes in working conditions. The controversy was finally submitted to the mediators, with the result above noted. This increase will become effective at once. The additional wage will amount in the aggregate to over $100,000 per year.

IMMIGRATION BILL.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—Up to the time of going to press of the News Letter Wednesday evening, Feruary 12, the immigration bill, now before President Taft, has not been signed or disapproved. Delegations, both for and against, have presented their views to the President. President Taft summoned Immigration Commissioner Williams from Ellis Island to Washington to confer with him as to the details of the Dillingham-Burnett immigration bill. The bill also has been under discussion at a recent Cabinet meeting.

WIN PARTIAL VICTORY.

Minneapolis, Minn., Feb. 15.—The bill posters here have won a partial victory as a result of a strike in that they have secured an agreement with one large firm. The bill posters demanded a 20 per cent increase and better working conditions. A counter offer was made by the firm in question of a 10 per cent increase, but was rejected. After negotiations the 20 per cent increase was granted and the men returned to work. The new scale will be from $17 to $18 per week.

ANOTHER TEMPLE PROPOSED.

Springfield, Mass., Feb. 15.—The Springfield Central Labor Union, through a committee, is endeavoring to make a selection of a site upon which it is proposed to build a labor temple. The Central Labor Union has sufficient funds to warrant the purchase of a location, and it is not apprehended that much difficulty will be encountered in raising funds with which to erect a suitable building.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

SAMUEL GOMPERS .... President
Ouray Building, Washington, D. C.
JAMES DUNCAN .... First Vice President
Hancock Building, Quincy, Mass.
JOHN MITCHELL .... Second Vice President
3 Claremont Avenue, Mount Vernon, N. Y.
JAMES O'CONNELL .... Third Vice President
512 Ouray Building, Washington, D. C.
D. A. HAYES .... Fourth Vice President
930 Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, Pa.
WILLIAM D. HUBER .... Fifth Vice President
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Ouray Building, Washington, D. C.

THROWS MASK OFF

The greatest sea tragedy in history is still fresh in the minds of the people of every civilized country. It had been supposed that modern methods of shipbuilding had placed ocean travel far within the safety line, but when the Titanic met with that fateful accident, the legislative machinery of all the governments of the world was set in motion with the avowed purpose of acquiring the minutest information about the disaster. Investigations showed not only an absolute disregard for the present laws, but brought out the fact that the crews employed by the great steamship companies to operate their ocean monsters are to a very large extent unskilled and incompetent men. In fact, it was proven beyond a peradventure of doubt that the skilled seamen have been driven from the crafts of the sea because of the inordinate craving of the steamship companies for profit. From time to time legislation has been enacted by this nation to protect the lives of the employes and passengers of railroads, and the Interstate Commerce Commission has constantly used its influence in this direction. Not a single enactment, however, has been placed on the statute books to protect the seamen. It is indeed a strange commentary upon the Congress of the United States that this fact stands out so boldly. Under the present law the seamen are nothing more than vassals—are but the bondsmen of the shipping combines. Through a long term of years the seamen have sought relief at the hands of the American Congress. A bill, which had passed the House of Representatives, is now before the Senate, restores in some degree the rights to which the seamen are entitled, but the Senate, after its activity in investigating the Titanic tragedy, seems to have been soothed by some unseen force, and has lapsed into an apathetic state. It ought to be brought forcibly to the mind of every Senator that the seamen's bill should be passed, and the seamen accorded the same rights and privileges enjoyed by the citizens of a sovereign country. Only recently the Washington Post, in a strong editorial, under the caption, "Lest We Forget," makes a strong argument in favor of the seamen's bill, and is of such timely interest as to warrant reproduction. It follows:

"Nearly one year has passed since the loss of the Titanic. The survivors testified that the crew was inefficient both in number and individual skill. English shipping companies have put on more life boats, partly as an advertisement, partly in accordance with the new regulations adopted by the board of trade. Very few of them, only three or four at the most, have shipped any greater number of men than before, and none of them have taken any greater care in the selection of the men they shipped. Substantially the same thing applies to American shipping companies.

"Immediately after the loss the one great anxiety seemed to be that legislation proposed as a remedy might go too far. The real danger is, and the danger is increasing as the memory of the Titanic disaster is mellowed by time, that no effective legislation will be enacted at all.

"The International Shipping Federation, with its headquarters in London, organized and conducted specifically to keep down operating expenses, has been busy in England and here to prevent legislation that will compel steamship companies to carry a sufficient number of boats to take care of the passengers and crew, and a sufficient number of skilled sailors to take care of the boats. It is generally understood that a very strong foreign lobby is at work here at present, and that they have the full sympathy and co-operation of American shipowners, whose financial interests are so interwoven with foreign shipping interests that they become as one to prevent any legislation which will raise the cost of operation of foreign vessels trading to ports of the United States as to remove the differential in favor of foreign shipowners, and thus destroy their control of the ocean. Information from Europe indicates that the British and German shipowners especially are very much exercised over the possibility of the passage of the seamen's bill. The owners of the Titanic prefer to come under American law in the settlement of any claims arising from the loss, but they are very industrious in opposing legislation designed to increase the safeguards against loss of life at sea.

"The European ship trust ought to be defeated in this attempt, and American vessels and American shippers, passengers, and seamen should have first consideration from Congress."

A BIT OF HISTORY

In the Sixty-third Congress the trade unions of America will be represented by seventeen members. This result has been the outcome of the policy inaugurated by the American Federation of Labor during the past three Congressional campaigns. Prior to the time mentioned, men with paid-up union cards in their pockets in Congress were conspicuous by their absence, although there have been union men members of Congress prior to 1906. The first union man to be elected to Congress, however, occurred a great many years ago—in 1834, in fact. Ely Moore, a journeyman printer, was elected to the Twenty-fourth Congress, and re-elected to the Twenty-fifth, from New York City. He was a member of what was then known as the Typographical Association of New York, which was organized on June 17, 1831. Moore also was editor of a labor paper, but data is not available as to its title. The brief biography of this early union Congressman contains the facts that he was born in New Jersey and died in Kansas, and that during the active years of his life he was an agitator and organizer of labor unions. Apropos to this subject, Senator Ashurst of Arizona, on January 2, 1912, while discussing the recall of judges, wove into his address a reference to Ely Moore; likewise paying tribute to the valor and high character of the men who laid the foundation for collective action among workmen. That part of Senator Ashurst's speech referred to is as follows:

"The struggle for social justice for the people who perform physical labor has been even greater and more stubbornly resisted. As late as the year 1800 men were severely punished in England for organizing guilds or labor unions, and the condition of the working class was little better than that of slaves. It was not until 1875, in England, that the laws against the trades unions were repealed. In the early days of our own government nearly all the work was performed either by slaves or indentured servants, and wages amounted to an average of $1 per day. Heartless writers referred to the laboring classes as the 'living machines which wealth possesses.'

"When Ely Moore, the first member of a labor union to be elected to the Congress of the United States, was about to take his seat in the Twenty-fourth Congress, there was a movement set on foot to try to prevent his being seated. Contumely, scorn, and derision were heaped upon him by the reactionaries of that day, who believed that the liberties of the republic were in danger because a member of a labor union had been elected to Congress. But the stubborn courage of Ely Moore, his superlative eloquence, biting sarcasm, and wonderfully piercing analysis convinced the nation that no mistake had been made in sending a member of a labor union to Congress, and so strikingly did this journeyman printer, this organizer of labor unions, this so-called 'agitator' and 'demagogue' distinguish himself for patriotism, learning, and ability, that he became a confidential adviser of the administration of President James K. Polk. I mention these circumstances so that those who are supporting this contest in behalf of a larger human liberty will not become discouraged, but will become encouraged when they reflect how much more intensely heated was the opposition to these reforms in the days gone by. He is wasting his time who believes he can stop or stay these forward movements in their progress. The movement, especially in behalf of those who perform physical labor, for a greater share of freedom, for the right to enjoy a part of the creation of their hands and of their own toil, will inevitably live, for it is as broad-based as the world itself and as deep as humanity."

SCORE PRISON MANAGEMENT.

Baltimore, Feb. 15.—A special commission, appointed by the Governor of this State, to investigate the Maryland penitentiary has submitted its report. The report charges that the prisoners have been cruelly treated, were inhumanly punished, were driven by cruel and hard task masters, that punishments in the main were inflicted to drive the convicts to greater exertions for contractors, that cells were found dirty, that men were confined in dark cells infested with vermin, and that they were exploited by the commissary. The blame for the mismanagement of the institution is placed upon the warden, who the commission finds guilty of petty graft and falsehood, and that he tried to balk the investigators in their work. The commission, in commenting on the contract system says: "We find the contract system wrong in principle, and the root of all evils, real and imaginary, existing in the penitentiary to-day." In commenting upon the earnings for the State, owing to the contract system, the commission says: "We find that the success of the system, of penal industry cannot be measured by cash earned under such system. We find that the leasing of prisoners to private contractors has introduced within the prison walls subordinate contractors, employes who are interested solely in exploiting the prisoners for profit. We find that the delegation to any extent of control over the convicts to private contractors, whose interests are opposed to the interests of the State, is unwise, and fundamentally wrong in principle. We find that the contract system has created an undesirable spirit in the inmates of the institution, and that they are inflamed with the sense of injustice at being leased for another man's profit." Through the entire report there is a scathing denunciation of the contract convict system, and the abolition of it is recommended, as is also the removal of the women convicts to a separate institution.

FAVORABLE DECISION.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The New York Court of Appeals held, in the case of Quigley vs. Thatcher et al., that where a contractor constructs and so locates a scaffold or platform that his subcontractor must of necessity, or under the requirements of reasonable convenience in the performance of his work, use the same, the contractor may be held to have anticipated such use and to have assumed liability to such subcontractor and his employes for the safety thereof within the requirement of the labor law of the State. In this case the court affirmed a judgment entered upon a verdict in favor of an employe of a subcontractor who was injured by reason of a plank giving way which formed part of a scaffold erected by the general contractors for the use of their own immediate employes, but which he was obliged to use to reach a point where he was to perform work engaged to be done by his employer, a subcontractor.

INCREASE FOR D. & H. MEN.

Pittston, Pa., Feb. 15.—About 400 employes of the shops of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Company between this city and Albany will benefit by the increase in wages just announced by the officials of the company. The new schedule of wages affects the machinists, boilermakers, blacksmiths, and their helpers. The crafts mentioned have been awarded from 10 cents to 20 cents a day increase. The minimum wage with the increase added will be 27 cents per hour. Machinists and boilermakers in special departments will receive 31 3-4 cents per hour. The helpers received a 25 cents per day increase. The minimum wage scale for these latter employes is now $1.85 per day.

ORGANIZE FOR MINE SAFETY.

Washington, Feb. 15.—H. M. Wilson, engineer in charge of the experiment station of the Federal Bureau of Mines at Pittsburg, has been made chairman of the executive committee of the American Mine Safety Association. This organization has been formed to work for a reduction of the number of deaths in mines and quarries throughout the country and the relief of more than 60,000 miners injured each year. Among the members of this association are leading coal and metal mine operators, mining engineers, and mine safety engineers.

MINE RESCUE STATION.

Pittsburgh, Kans., Feb. 15.—This city has a chance to have established here a mine rescue station that will make this city the headquarters of all mine rescue work in the States of Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas. The locating of the station here will also mean the erection by the Bureau of Mines of a building costing approximately $4,000. All that Pittsburgh will be asked to contribute is the site for the building. Efforts are now being made to secure the station.

TO PROBE CHARGE.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 15.—It is stated that the Governor of the State has decided to send a representative to Paint and Cabin Creek districts to investigate a sensational story told by a miner from Middletown, N. Y., who declares that killings in the strike region are of daily occurance, but that the facts are suppressed. A statement is made that in one night seven miners were killed. This is a strange commentary on what is imagined to be a civilized community.

ADOPT PEOPLE'S RULE.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 15.—The House of Representatives of the Minnesota Legislature has passed the initiative and referendum bill, framed by the House committee. A hard fight was made to amend the bill to make it ineffective, but these efforts were futile. The bill passed by the House is considered to be a good one, and efforts will now be directed to have the State Senate concur in the action of the House.

WANT HEAT IN VESTIBULES.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 15.—Representatives of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railwaymen are in charge of a bill now before the Legislature, providing for the heating of vestibule on street cars. While some opposition is apparent, it is believed that this meritorious bill will be passed.

ANOTHER SPIKE DRIVEN IN.

Omaha, Feb. 15.—The Western Laborer recently printed an article relative to the real estate holdings of the employes of one of the daily papers of that city. The daily referred to is an employer of union labor, and has, exclusive of carriers and correspondents, 189 people on its pay roll. Of this number ninety-one receive $4 per day or more. The writer of the article states that twenty-six years ago only two men employed upon the paper were the owners of their own homes, but that at the present time there are fifty-one employes of this concern that are the owners of their own domiciles. While it is probable that many other newspapers throughout the country can show a similar record, yet the facts here stated, in such concrete form, emphasize the statements being continuously made to the unorganized in reference to the benefits that come as a consequence of organization. Were it possible to present these figures to the great unorganized mass, it could not but have the effect of at least exciting the curiosity to at least determine whether the benefits here related are real. This is but one more instance, however, of the great benefit which has been conferred upon the organized as a result of their continuity of purpose and their grit in maintaining the organizations to which they belong. It further proves the sophistry of anti-union argument that increases in wages and reduction of hours only result in creating dissipated workmen.

TEACHERS WANT MORE MONEY.

Duluth, Minn., Feb. 15.—The question is asked "Is the Duluth Teachers' Association a trade union?" The Labor World says: "It would probably be distasteful to the members of the Duluth Teachers' Association to have their association designated as a labor organization, but nevertheless it seems to have the same grievances as do the organized wage-earners. However, a movement is on foot, and the local association will probably do everything but strike to obtain higher compensation for the service of the teachers. At a meeting held at the Central High School recently preliminary steps were taken toward presenting a request for more money to the board. A committee was appointed, representing the kindergarten, primary grades, and high schools, to present the teachers' demands. Under the present schedule $85 per month is the maximum scale for eighth-grade teachers, lower grades having a maximum of $80. The teachers desire to raise both these figures, as well as the maximum of $50 to normal grades taking their first school."

PROFESSOR ON COURTS.

San Francisco, Feb. 15.—In a recent issue of the Star, this item appeared: Professor Reed, of the University of California, has stirred up a hornet's nest, by saying: "The courts of the country are not respected because they are not respectable." The trouble with many of our courts, or rather the judges, is that they are too respectable. They lean backwards—do not get close enough to the people. Courts are respected where justice is done—where the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, are given equal rights, without fear or favor on the part of the judges. Contempt of courts is due generally to the contemptibility of judges who disregard or distort the law to do injustice. There are to-day but few such judges in California; and when the recall shall become a nation-wide institution, their tribe will fast become extinct.

NEW MEXICO FEDERATION.

Santa Fe, Feb. 15.—Representatives of the New Mexico State Federation of Labor are active in an effort to secure labor legislation. Bills have been introduced prohibiting corporations from exercising police power through men holding commissions as peace officers and being paid by such corporations. Also an act prohibiting misrepresentation of conditions during strike, and prohibiting shipment of men under armed guards during labor difficulties. Also a workmen's compensation act, patterned after the Washington State Law; an anti-blacklisting bill; a bill requiring payment of employes in cash or check of even date. The prospects are for favorable action by the House, but some difficulty will be experienced in the Senate by what is termed the "old guard" lining up against all labor measures.

CALL IN CONTRACTS.

Denison, Tex., Feb. 15.—The management of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company has called in all contracts with road employes for a revision of wage schedules. Under the terms of the existing contracts, either the railroad company or the employes are allowed to call conferences thirty days after the notices have been issued. The Brotherhood of Firemen and Enginemen, the Order of Railway Conductors, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen have all been asked to open their contracts with the company. There is much speculation among the employes as to just what the company expects to do after the contracts are open.

SUGGESTION AS TO IMMIGRANTS.

Washington, Feb. 15.—In an address recently delivered by Senator Dillingham of Vermont, member of the Senate Immigration Committee, he set forth many facts regarding immigration conditions. About 65 per cent of the immigrants coming to this country are male, and Senator Dillingham, in commenting upon this, made the following statement: "In view of the fact that many of these men are married and leave their wives and children in the old country, it is a good thing for the nation to rule that only married men accompanied by their families shall enter this country."

APPEAL ALLOWED.

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 15.—Another appeal in the famous Danbury hatters' case, this time to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, is sure, as Judge Martin, of the United States District Court, who heard the case in this city some months ago, granted a writ of error on defendants' appeal. The recent verdict was for the plaintiffs to recover $250,000 damages from Martin Lawlor and 186 others. When the deputy United States marshal tried, a few days ago, to collect the judgment he was unable to get even a single dollar.

REPRESENTATIVE WILSON INDORSED BY FEDERATION FOR POSITION IN CABINET

WILLIAM B. WILSON

Washington, Feb. 15.—The Department of Labor bill is now on the calendar of the Senate, having passed the House, and is grouped under the parliamentary status of unfinished business. Under the mode of procedure the bill can be called up at any favorable opportunity by the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, Senator Borah, and acted upon. The committee has already submitted a favorable report, and from a canvass of the Senators it is found that little, if any, opposition exists. It is confidently predicted that this measure will be sent to President Taft for his approval within a short time, and that before March 4 a Cabinet officer will have been appointed by President-elect Wilson to assume the portfolio of Labor, in the incoming administration.

In view of the present situation, therefore, with a department of government to be devoted exclusively to the industrial problems with which this country is confronted, interest is keen in the appointment to be made, in that if the department fulfills the expectations of its champions the rights and needs of labor will be supported and represented by an acknowledged practical student of labor at the council table of the official government family.

Prominently mentioned for the appointment of Secretary of Labor is W. B. Wilson, now chairman of the House Labor Committee, but who retires from membership in the House of Representatives on March 4. Mr. Wilson has been a member of Congress six years, and during the last two years has been chairman of the Committee on Labor in the House. For the first time in the entire history of the American Congress the House Labor Committee, during the incumbency of its present chairman, has really measured up to that which its name implies. Prior thereto this committee was only conspicuous for its unresponsiveness, and a convenient receptacle into which to consign to obscurity all measures designed to remedy industrial iniquities.

Every member of the present House Labor Committee is worthy of commendation, but from long practical experience and intimate knowledge of general labor conditions, Chairman Wilson stands pre-eminent, and is peculiarly qualified to meet the requirements imposed by an appointment as Secretary of a Department of Labor.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor unanimously indorsed Mr. Wilson for this important portfolio, and it believes that the appointment and confirmation of him will be not only a recognition of ability, but inaugurate an era in governmental affairs in which that great industrial section of society, the workers, will be represented in the President's Cabinet by one of their own number.

W. B. Wilson has never faltered in his advocacy of the rights of the people, his honesty has never been questioned—he has been tried in the field of endeavor, and has measured up to the highest test.

FIGHTS TEN-HOUR BILL.

Denver, Feb. 15.—The local traction company, a road which is practically unorganized, is working, through the officers of the different clubs, kept alive by the company itself, against a bill now before the Legislature to limit the hours of motormen and conductors to ten per day. This measure was introduced by a member of the House of Representatives, who is also a member of the Street Carmen's Union at Colorado Springs. The bill has passed the House and is now before the Senate. The traction company is coercing its employes to sign petitions asking the Legislature not to pass the law. This is in accordance with the policy of this same company, assumed a number of years ago, when a bill was introduced in the Legislature to vestibule all street cars. Employes of this company at that time were coerced into signing petitions against the vestibule law, and the bill providing for that humanitarian enactment was defeated. However, since that time all Denver cars have been vestibuled. The Senate labor committee is composed largely of union men, and the bill undoubtedly will be reported out favorably and passed by the Senate. The same old arguments are being used as of yore, but the fallacious appeals of corporations are not as effective as of old.

PARCELS POST REPORT.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Much interest is being taken with reference to the parcels post and the record of business done is being closely watched. During January, the first month the system was in operation, approximately 40,000,000 parcels were handled. These figures are based on the amount of business done at fifty of the largest postoffices where about one-half of the postal business is done. At these offices 19,365,433 packages were handled and the business during the second two weeks exceeded the first two weeks by more than 5,000,000 packages. Chicago exceeds all other cities in the number of parcels handled, with a total of 4,168,152, with New York following with 3,519,788; Boston, 1,151,408; Philadelphia, 1,035,000; St. Louis, 917,849; Cleveland, 879,768; Brooklyn, 834,000; Detroit, 510,072; Cincinnati, 414,381, and Kansas City, 357,102. The parcels post funds are already exhausted and the Postmaster General has asked Congress for another appropriation of $750,000.

POSTAL PENSION SYSTEM.

Washington, Feb. 15.—A bill providing for a system of retirement and pensions for the benefit of superannuated employes in the postal service has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania. The bill provides that after twenty-five years' service a post-office employe who has become incapacitated may be granted an indefinite leave of absence, with pay at the rate of $600 a year. In case of special stress of business in handling mail, the postmaster is given power to require the retired employes to work until the emergency is passed.

WAGE FOR FARM LABOR.

London, Feb. 15.—The Daily News says that the intention in the land campaign inaugurated by Chancellor Lloyd-George is to propose the statutory establishment of a minimum wage for agricultural laborers of at least $5 per week and provision for every laborer of cottage and plot land, held independently of farmer or farm landlord.

STEEL TRUST BUSINESS.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The unfilled tonnage of the United States Steel Corporation on January 31 totaled [illegible] tons, a decrease of [illegible] tons over the previous month.

ASK LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 15.—Just subsequent to the murder of one of the strikers at the Rankin plant of the American Steel and Wire Company, a branch of the United States Steel Corporation, Representative John F. Towers of North Braddock introduced a concurrent resolution authorizing the appointment of a commission to investigate the labor troubles at Rankin and Braddock, in Allegheny county. It is proposed that the commission shall consist of six members, three from the Senate and three from the House, and the commission is to be empowered to immediately make the investigation and report in writing to the general assembly before the 15th of March, stating the causes of such trouble, so far as ascertainable, and making such suggestions as it may deem proper, tending to ameliorate the conditions now existing. The resolution has already passed the House, and if adopted by the Senate will empower the commission to enter any premises or inclosures and to require the production and testimony of any witnesses it may deem necessary, and may compel the production of such books and papers as it may require in conducting said investigation. Indications are that this resolution will be concurred in by the Senate.

RAILWAYS ON BOOM.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The receipts and expenses of steam railways for the month of October, 1912, which has just been compiled, are greater than for any other month in their history. The net operating revenue, which is the gross income before anything has been taken out for taxes and rentals, interest on bonds, appropriations for betterments, or dividends, averaged $15.71 per mile of line per day, which contrasts with $13.74 for October, 1911, an increase of $1.97. This is an increase per mile of line for the month of $61.13, or 14.4 per cent. This monthly summary for October covers 220,626 miles of line and about 90 per cent of all the steam railway mileage of the United States. The aggregate net operating revenues for this mileage was $147,440,518, which is greater by $14,870,125 than that for October, 1911.

CHILDREN'S BUREAU.

Washington, Feb. 15—Three or four small cities in the New England States, Pennsylvania and Michigan, are to be selected for a house-to-house canvass to secure data on births and deaths of children occurring during a stated period of time. The reason why the States mentioned have been selected is on account of the fact that in these States registration laws exist and are the only ones recognized by the United States Census Bureau for accuracy. The prime object to be attained is a record of the number of deaths and the causes thereof, with the end in view of employing scientific methods to reduce infantile mortality.

FEAR DISAGREEMENT.

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 15.—The longshoremen have been in conference with the fish dealers, endeavoring to arrive at an understanding relative to a definite contract season and shorter working hours. It is stated that the differences are serious, and that the workmen declare that they will not take out the tugs unless their full demands are granted.

NEWS FROM FLORIDA.

St. Augustine, Feb. 15.—Organizer William E. Terry, of the A. F. of L., has organized a Federal Labor Union, with prospects of a large membership. Officials of the public schools in this city are now using the union label on all printing. The carpenters here are 100 per cent organized and enjoy splendid conditions.

AFTER TRANSMISSION LINES.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Preliminary work has been begun by the Interstate Commerce Commission to investigate the telephone and telegraph lines. This inquiry was referred to the commission because of the attorney general's decision not to proceed under the Sherman anti-trust law against the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Bell system. Chairman Lane has begun plans for the inquiry and it may ultimately develop the broad policy of the desirability of competition in telephone service. Investigation, not only will be nation-wide in its scope, but will be the most extensive ever undertaken by the commission. It is expected that the jurisdiction of the commission over many of the 20,000 telephone companies in the United States may be attacked. Most of them are local companies, but it probably will be held that such of them as may form links in interstate lines are subject to the commissioner's jurisdiction. Another question to be considered by the commission is whether it is advisable from the public viewpoint to have telephone and telegraph lines linked.

PHYSICAL VALUATION COMING.

Washington, Feb. 15.—A favorable report on the bill authorizing the physical valuation of railroads in the United States is expected in the near future from the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce. The bill that recently passed the House has been in the hands of Senator La Follette, who has a similar measure before the Senate. The committee referred to is expected to accept Senator La Follette's recommendations. The effect of this bill, if enacted into law, will be to appraise the railroads of the country at their actual value. This will give general publicity to the amount of water contained in the stock of the various transportation companies and prohibit in the future excess capitalization. The revealing of the actual value as distinguished from the stock value of railroad properties cannot be but advantageous to the employes of these corporations in fixing scales of wages, as the temper of the people today is against the present policy of corporations making dividends on phantom values.

FAVOR BLOCK SIGNALS.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Compulsory adoption by all interstate railroads of the block signal system is the important recommendation of the block signal and train control board, just made in its final report to the Interstate Commerce Commission. This board was created by Congress in 1907. "The development of the automatic train stop," says the report, "has proceeded far enough to warrant the expectation that by its use greater safety can be secured in the operation of trains. Railroads should be given to understand that the automatic train stop must be developed by them as rapidly as possible." The board also recommends that railroad tracks be properly enclosed and laws against trespassing be enforced.

APPROVE POPULAR VOTE.

Washington, Feb. 15.—It is reported by the State Department officially that the Legislature of North Carolina has given its approval to the proposition of favoring the proposed Constitutional amendment providing for the direct election of Senators by the people. It has been freely predicted that the Southern States unanimously would reject the proposed amendment because of its implied extension of Federal authority over State elections. North Carolina is the sixth State so far favorably recorded on the proposition, the other five being Michigan, Minnesota, Massachusetts, New York, and Arizona.